



Informational Notes for First Responders and Officials

Bulletin #55 – July 27, 2004
SEMA's Homepage: sema.dps.mo.gov

73 Jurisdiction Awarded FY2003 Interoperable Communications Grants

Grant awards to purchase interoperable communications equipment were mailed to 73 jurisdictions across the state on July 23, 2004. The communities will be able to purchase interoperable communications systems that will allow emergency responders to better communicate with each other at an incident site and with a local operations center.

The interoperable communications grant will give local emergency responders the ability to use the compatible communications equipment to share critical lifesaving information. Local government response organizations have historically identified communications as a primary problem.

SEMA earmarked \$3.5 Million of the FY 2003 State Homeland Security Grant program money for Interoperable Communications. A peer group selection committee identified the most critical applications out of the \$26 Million requested. Additional funding **may** become available to devote to this grant. Other jurisdictional applications are being maintained as well as modified based on the peer group's priority. Communications equipment may also be contained in the city/county grants. The UASI jurisdictions will be addressing communications from the USAI grants. Because of the importance of interoperable communications, there are other initiatives at all levels of government being addressed.

Jurisdictions receiving Category 1: Communication Equipment: Alexandria VFPD; Atchison County E9-1-1; Barton County Commission; Billings Police; California Fire; California Police; California RFPD; Cameron ACCD Region 9-1-1; Carthage City; Clarksburg Fire; Clinton Police; Cole County FPD; Dade County TERT Team; Dexter FPD; Douglas County Sheriff; Fortuna FPD; Fulton City; Heartland Health EMS; Hermann Police; Hickory County Commission; Howard County EMA; Ironton Fire; Jamestown RFPD; Jasper County Emergency Services; Kennett EMA; Lake Ozark FPD; Madison County Commission; Maries County Emergency Operations; Marion County 9-1-1 Services; McDonald County 9-1-1 Center; Miller-Morgan-Moniteau FPD; Moniteau County Road & Bridge; Moniteau County Sheriff; Osage Beach City; Osage County EMA; Pulaski County Sheriff; Putnam Co/Liberty Township FPD; Ralls County Sheriff; Ralls County 9-1-1 Center; Republic City; Rich Hill City; Tipton RFPD; Tipton Fire; Warren County Commission; Willard City; Worth County Commission; Wright City Volunteer FPD; and Wright/Texas Co. EMA.

Jurisdictions receiving Category 2: CAD/911 systems: Atchison County E9-1-1; Audrain County E911; Cameron Police; El Dorado Springs Police; Howard County 9-1-1 Center; Laclede County Commission; Marion County 9-1-1 Services; Maryville Public Safety; Monett City; Osage County E911; Popular Bluff Police; Ralls County 9-1-1; Shelby County E911; St. Francois 9-1-1 Center; and Taney County Sheriff.

Jurisdictions receiving Category 3: Crisis Management software: Atchison County EMA; Bates County EOC; Christian County EOC; Houston Fire; Miller County EMA; Scott County EMA; St. Francois 9-1-1 Center; Stoddard County 9-1-1 Services; Texas County EOC; and Warrensburg Public Safety;

ODP Announces Firefighter Grants (Rounds 7 and 8)

The Office of Domestic Preparedness announced eight Missouri Fire Departments received Firefighter assistance grants. The departments receiving grants for operations and firefighter safety are: Braymer City FD

(\$57,220), Central DeKalb County FPD (\$70,810), Golden City VFD (\$6,160), Hayti Heights FD (\$31,896), Sarcoxie VFD (\$29,380), and Wardell Rural FD (\$13,500).

Departments receiving grants for firefighting vehicles are: Cherokee Pass VFD in Fredericktown (\$151,500), and Lick Creek Valley VFD near Howard's Ridge (\$89,000).

August 10 Final Day To Register For May Tornadoes Disaster Assistance

Tuesday, August 10 is the final day to apply for disaster assistance for all those affected by the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding in the following disaster-designated counties: Adair, Andrew, Bates, Benton, Buchanan, Caldwell, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Chariton, Clay, Clinton, Daviess, DeKalb, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Hickory, Jackson, Johnson, Knox, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Mercer, Monroe, Nodaway, Platte, Polk, Randolph, Ray, Shelby, St. Clair, Sullivan, Vernon, and Worth.

Individuals and business owners affected by the severe weather that occurred between May 18-31 should call and apply as soon as possible by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) toll-free number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**. The number for those with hearing or speech impairment is TTY 1-800-462-7585.

Even if an individual or business has insurance, victims may still be eligible for disaster loans for under-insured losses or disaster grants for serious unmet needs. However, in order to complete an application, FEMA will need the resident's insurance settlement information to avoid any duplication of benefits. Assistance may include grants for temporary disaster housing; repairing disaster-damaged, uninsured homes to a safe and sanitary living condition, and for serious, disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs; U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest loans for individuals and businesses to repair or replace damaged property; and Disaster Unemployment Assistance for anyone out of work due to the disaster and ineligible for benefits under the state's regular unemployment insurance program.

SEMA Announces Training Info

The training schedule for the federal fiscal year 2005 is posted on the SEMA website www.sema.dps.mo.gov. The courses scheduled are the result of requests received through the area coordinators. This schedule is a "living" document and will be continuously amended throughout the year to reflect additional courses requested by jurisdictions. Additional classes are scheduled based on the need of the jurisdiction, their ability to support the classes with participants and the available budget at SEMA.

SEMA has one new Workshop in Emergency Management (WEM) entitled: Small Business Continuity Planning. This is a four-hour workshop designed to provide the small business owner/manager with the necessary tools to improve their chances of operating through or recovering from a disaster affecting their community quickly with better odds for long-term survival. Currently, Jim Charrier, SEMA Training Officer notes that he doesn't have a good mechanism for marketing to local businesses because businesses are not traditional members of the emergency management community. Please inform your local businesses about this opportunity. As with other WEMs, this course will be brought to the requesting community at no charge. Fifteen participants are needed to make this a viable course delivery.

Sept. 9 National Preparedness Event Features Citizen Councils/Volunteers

Missouri Governor Holden, Missouri's State Citizen Corps Council, the Disaster Recovery Partnership will feature volunteer organizations and 55 local Citizen Councils on September 9 at the Missouri Capital, Jefferson City, for National Preparedness Month. The theme of National Preparedness Month is personal responsibility.

Members of the 55 Citizen Corps Councils will be able to participate in one of two concurrent seminars: "Local Citizen Corps Council Organizing and Planning" or "Getting the word out – effective preparedness messages." Other activities during the daylong event include a rally and lunch with Governor Holden on the Capitol Grounds. Between 11:30a.m. -3:30p.m. the public will be able to view interactive displays and CERT or WMD Regional Team demonstrations on the Capital grounds.

DHS Approves Funds for First Responder Training Courses

Department Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP), in cooperation with the Department's United States Fire Administration (USFA), announced today the approval of additional preparedness training courses for emergency responders.

In his Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8, President George Bush directed the DHS to multiply and enhance the training courses available to first responders. The newly approved courses, offered by USFA and the National Fire Academy, include Introduction to Unified Command for Multi-Agency and Catastrophic Incidents, All Hazards Incident Management, and Command and General Staff Functions in the Incident Command System.

With this approval, states and urban areas can use allocated Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding to conduct or attend these courses. Additionally, states and urban areas can now use this funding to reimburse overtime and backfill costs associated with attending these courses as well as other SLGCP approved courses

New Homeland Security Web Page Delivers NIMS Guidance

FEMA announced the creation of a centralized Web portal to serve as a resource for emergency managers and first responders related to the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

The NIMS Web page, www.fema.gov/nims, is designed to offer emergency managers an on-going basis and a complete listing of NIMS requirements, tools, resources, and general information on Homeland Security's new incident management and maintenance tool. President Bush directed the creation of NIMS as a means to develop a standardized incident management approach to emergency incidents and streamline coordination at the federal, state and local levels.

The assessment process, compliance criteria, NIMS-related training, and implementation timelines are some of the issues that will be addressed via the Web page. As NIMS implementation moves forward, relevant information will be posted on the page, which also can be accessed by a direct link from FEMA's home page, www.fema.gov.

DHS Hosts Forum for Sports Executives

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) hosted representatives and security officials from professional and collegiate sport associations and venues during a one-day seminar to discuss homeland security issues and security planning for high-profile sporting events taking place during the next several months. **DHS has not received any specific credible threat reporting indicating that the terrorists are targeting sporting events.**

The seminar discussed ways to assess potential vulnerabilities; strengthen security plans; share best practices; ensure recognition and reporting of suspicious activities; and other actions that may be taken to protect and respond during an emergency situation. Specific security measures shared as best practices include:

- Conducting comprehensive security assessments of event venues;
- Increasing perimeter security and safety patrols during an event;
- Installing surveillance cameras and other equipment to enhance detection and monitoring capabilities;
- Establishing restricted areas of access for essential personnel only; and
- Reinforcing employee procedures to ensure knowledge of emergency protocols.